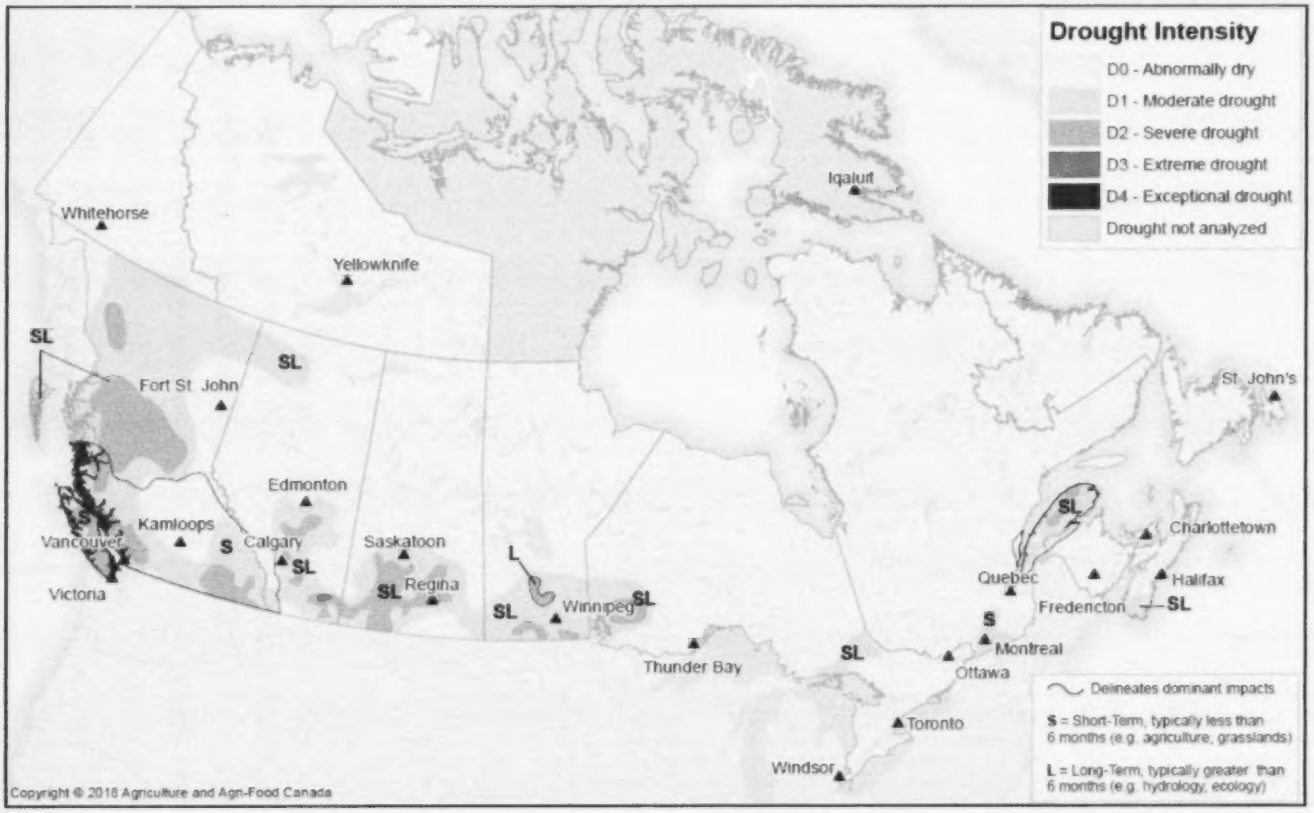
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31st, 2018



Continued precipitation deficits and above average temperatures led to persisting and worsening drought across much of western Canada in August. Agricultural impacts have been moderate to severe in many regions, and much of the western half of the country was experiencing feed and water shortages by the end of the month. Warm temperatures and rainfall deficits led to the rapid development of drought across British Columbia, and wildfire activity in the province expanded and exceeded the area burned in the 2017 wildfires. Many regions of the southern Prairies experienced record-breaking temperatures and little to no precipitation. Substantial precipitation and soil moisture deficits led to the development and worsening of drought conditions. Despite short-term improvements, several drought pockets persisted in Central and Atlantic Canada due to long-term moisture deficits and impacts.

Pacific Region (BC)

Record-high temperatures and precipitation deficits led to wide spread deterioration of drought conditions across the Pacific region in August. The areas most affected are northern B.C., coastal areas and Vancouver Island. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded to include much of the province except for the Peace and Okanagan regions that had dealt with excess moisture concerns earlier in the season. Satellite-derived soil moisture data as well as precipitation indices indicated that the area surrounding Kootenay Lake was well below the long-term average; thus, a Severe Drought (D2) pocket developed. D2 pockets also developed in southern Vancouver Island, along the Sunshine Coast, and in Haida Gwaii due to prolonged precipitation deficits and poor streamflow throughout the growing season. In the central interior, high temperatures combined with significant precipitation deficits and wildfires throughout the month resulted in D2 conditions that were rapidly escalated and expanded. Continued hot and dry conditions throughout the growing season have resulted in reduced forage yields across much of the province. Stream flow conditions remained low across much of the province with multiple areas reporting historic or near-historic lows. Cooler temperatures and precipitation late in the month brought some relief to the wildfires across several regions; however this was not enough to reduce the drought levels. Several significant wildfires continue to burn, most notably in the central and northern interior.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Prairie drought continued to worsen due to warm temperatures and inadequate rainfall. By the end of the month much of the southern portions of the region was experiencing Moderate Drought (D1) or worse; resulting from very poor soil moisture, deteriorating surface water supplies and very poor pasture conditions. D1 conditions expanded to include much of the southern Prairies and northwestern Alberta. Crop conditions across Alberta declined gradually throughout the month, and warm temperatures coupled with minimal precipitation in the southeast led to the development of a small Extreme Drought (D3) pocket in the southeast. Hay yields in the province were generally poor and pastures never recovered from prolonged hot and dry conditions; thus, large Severe Drought (D2) pockets emerged in the southern area of the province. One of these D2 pockets expanded into southern Saskatchewan, where precipitation deficits continued to plague some of the hardest-hit regions from the 2017 drought that did not fully recover. The D2 in now covers a large area of the agricultural area in western Saskatchewan. A couple D2 pockets also developed in southern and southeastern Manitoba where rainfall deficits since the spring continued to worsen and August temperatures were much warmer than normal. The D2 in the Interlake region persisted due to long-term impacts, including poor water quality, limited water resources, very poor forage yields and poor crop yields. Across the Prairie region, the dry weather continued to advance harvest maturing crops early, dugouts were very low and many producers were looking at alternate options to meet winter water supplies. Forage availability continued to be a big concern across the region,

and many producers were supplemental feeding at the end of August and starting to reduce herd sizes to adjust for winter forage availability.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Warm and wet conditions in Central Canada led to the rapid improvement of soil moisture and streamflow across the region. Moderate Drought (D1) persisted along the southeastern Manitoba border. A Severe Drought (D2) pocket developed around Dryden due to prolonged dryness since early spring. Significant amounts of rain across southern Ontario led to the rapid alleviation of drought concerns. Abnormally Dry (D0) and D1 conditions persisted surrounding and northeast of Georgian Bay due to long-term precipitation deficits that have not fully recovered. Across the province, crop yields were extremely variable depending on soil moisture conditions at the time of planting and early season rainfall. Much of eastern Quebec did not improve as significantly as Ontario. Despite short-term improvement, long-term drought indices suggested that dryness in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean regions of Quebec have not fully recovered, and much of the area remained in D0 and D1 conditions. Prolonged precipitation deficits and above average temperatures led to persisting D2 conditions along the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Most of Atlantic Canada continued to experience normal to above normal precipitation and above normal temperatures throughout August. Conditions in New Brunswick and on Prince Edward Island recovered due to above average rainfall throughout August, and no dryness concerns persisted. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions developed in southern Nova Scotia and eastern Newfoundland due to short-term deficits. The southern-most agricultural regions of Nova Scotia continued to experience significant rainfall deficits that have led to water shortages; thus, a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket developed.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Dryness concerns in Northern Canada improved throughout August. Along the southern Yukon and Northwest Territories' borders, precipitation deficits and warmer-than-normal temperatures resulted in Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets extending up from the neighbouring provinces. Satellite-derived data indicated that the remainder of the region experienced above average precipitation and cool temperatures that alleviated all previous dryness concerns.

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